

In the Claims: Please amend the claims as follows. This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of the claims.

1. (Currently amended) A method for applying an optical coating to an article surface of an article, comprising the steps of:

providing a polyimide film as a deposition substrate; thereafter

applying an aluminum layer as a first release system to the deposition substrate; thereafter

depositing the optical coating as a multi-layer coating onto the deposition substrate, with the first release system between the optical coating and the deposition substrate, wherein the optical coating has a first face contacting the first release system, and a second face remote from the first face; thereafter

applying a second release system and a transfer substrate to the second face of the optical coating, wherein the first release system is dissolvable in a first-release-coating solvent that does not dissolve the second release system, the first-release-coating solvent comprising water, hydrochloric acid and copper sulfate; thereafter

dissolving the first release system in the first-release-coating solvent to separate the optical coating from the deposition substrate, wherein the first face of the optical coating becomes an exposed free face; thereafter

furnishing the article having the article surface; thereafter

affixing the first face of the optical coating to the article surface; and thereafter

separating the transfer substrate from the second face of the optical coating, wherein the optical coating includes alternating layers of Si and SiO₂, or alternating layers of SiO₂ and [(T₂O₅)] Ta₂O₅.

2.4. (cancelled)

5. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the step of applying a second release system and transfer substrate includes the step of

providing a compliant transfer substrate.

6. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the step of applying a second release system and transfer substrate includes the step of providing a castable transfer substrate.

7. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the step of applying the second release system and transfer substrate includes the steps of applying the second release system to the second face of the optical coating, wherein the second release system has a first face contacting the second face of the optical coating, and a second face remote from the first face, and thereafter affixing the transfer substrate to the second face of the optical coating, with the second release system between the transfer substrate and the second face of the optical coating.

8. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the step of applying the second release system and transfer substrate includes the step of providing a release-and-transfer structure having the second release system integrated with the transfer substrate.

9. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the step of applying the second release system and transfer substrate includes the step of providing a release-and-transfer structure having the second release system integrated with the transfer substrate, wherein the release-and-transfer structure is a polymeric releasable adhesive tape.

10. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the step of furnishing the article includes the step of furnishing the article that is a component of a gas turbine engine.

11. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the step of furnishing the article includes the step of

furnishing a new-make article.

12. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the step of furnishing the article includes the step of
furnishing an article which has previously been in service.

13. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the step of affixing the first face includes the step of
positioning a bonding element between the first face of the optical coating and the article surface, and
pressing the bonding element, the first face, and the article surface together at an elevated temperature.

14. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the step of affixing the first face includes the step of
bonding a bonding element to the article surface, and thereafter
bonding the first face of the optical coating to the bonding element.

15. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the step of affixing the first face of the optical coating to the article surface includes the step of
bonding the first face of the optical coating to a bonding element, and thereafter
bonding the bonding element to the article surface.

16. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the step of affixing the first face includes the step of
heating and pressing the first face using an autoclave.

17. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the step of affixing the first face includes the step of
heating and pressing the first face using a vacuum bag and a general heat source.

18. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the step of affixing the first face includes the step of heating and pressing the first face using a vacuum bag and a local heat source.

19. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the step of affixing the first face includes the step of ironing the first face onto the article surface.

20. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the method includes the step of preparing the transfer substrate and optical coating as a plurality of tiles that are each affixed to the article surface in the step of affixing.

21.-26. (Cancelled)